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ABSTRACT

Special libraries are defined in this paper as those libraries serving such institutions as government offices, private corporations, associations, and university departments. Information centers are similar to special libraries but provide personalized, high quality reference service, usually in science and technology, and often using mechanical or electronic methods for document code storage and retrieval. West Asia is that essentially moslem area bound by the United Arab Republic and Turkey on the West and West Pakistan on the East, reaching the border of the USSR on the North and the Arabian Sea on the South. It contains about twenty countries, depending on how the Gulf and Trucial States are counted, and two hundred million people, in an area of 3,500 by 2,000 miles. The USSR, Indian, Sudan, Libya, and Morocco are omitted from this area as being relatively separate from it in culture, orientation, or geography. While only a guess, it may be estimated that the area as a whole contains between 15,000 and 20,000 libraries of all kinds, of which perhaps 1,500 are special libraries or technical information centers. The majority of the grand total are very small school libraries with public libraries counting the second highest number. On the other hand, most of the better ones are either academic or special libraries. This survey is presented on a country by country basis. Fifteen of the countries were visited personally. (LI 004244 through 004261 and LI 004263 through 004267 are related.) (Author/NH)

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WEST ASIAN SPECIAL LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION CENTERS

Before presenting a picture of the special libraries and information centers in west Asia, it is necessary to define several terms.[1, 2] Special libraries are those libraries serving government ministries, private corporations, and university departments. Information centers are similar to special libraries but provide personalized, high quality reference service, usually in science and technology, and often using mechanical or electronic methods for document cole storage and retrieval. West Asia is that essentially moslem area bound by the United Arab Republic and Turkey on the West and West Pakistan on the East, reaching the border of the USSR on the North and the Arabian Sea on the South. It contains about twenty countries, depending on how the Gulf and Trucial States are counted, and two hundred million people, in an area of 3500 by 2000 miles. For reasons which are obviously debatable, the USSR, India, Sudan, Libya, and Morocco are omitted from this area as being relatively separate from it in culture, orientation, or geography.

While only a guess, it may be established that the area as a whole contains between 15,000 and 20,000 libraries of all kinds, of which perhaps 1500 are special libraries or technical information centers. The majority of the grand total are very small school libraries with public libraries counting the second highest number. On the other hand, most of the better ones are either academic or special libraries.

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[1] Other papers containing information on this subject are, Kent, Francis, "Training of Librarians and Documentalists in Arabic Speaking Countries, "UNESCO Library Bulletin XXI (November-December, 1967), pp. 301-10; and Harvey, John, "Librarians Holiday" Tehran, 1971, 140 pp. (unpublished).

[2] Other sources include Louise Arriens, American University, Beirut, Medical Librarian, who supplemented the information for several countries; The American Library Directory, New York, R.R. Bowker Co. 1966; The World of Learning, London, Europa Publications, 1970; Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science, Volumes I and II, New York, Dekker, 1968-9; Wales, A.P., International Library Directory, London, A. P. Wales Organization, 1968.

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This survey is presented on a country by country basis. Fifteen of the countries were visited personally. An attempt was made to visit several others - Iraq, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Southern Yemen, and Yemen — but visas could not be obtained for them or else the available evidence suggested that a visit would be repaid with almost no libraries. Information stated about the countries not visited is often sparse for this reason, the scarcity of relevant information available in Tehran, and the difficulty of obtaining English language information from them by mail.

Several other provisos must be added. For certain countries, like the UAR and Israel, dozens of pages could have been written; for Iran hundreds of detailed pages have been written elsewhere. This report is not considered to be thorough or complete, but particularly for countries with a varied library world, tends to discuss only those few most modern, largest or most unusual libraries. On the other hand, for several small countries covered poorly elsewhere in the literature and having few special libraries, more than usual detail is provided and other library types serving specialized users are described. Obviously, the paper presents the initial outline around which more facts could be gathered. Also, volume figures have not been varified and sometimes contain many manuscripts as well as books and serials. While West Asia is an area of ancient cities, many of its countries are newly developing, with low literacy rates, and relatively few outstanding modern libraries can be expected. However, a few surprises are waiting for the reader!

Afghanistan.— With 70,000 volumes and a relatively new American-designed building, looking much more western than eastern, the Kabul University Library is the leading library in this very underdeveloped and mountainous country. Like so many West Asian libraries, this one posesses more European and American than Afghan books, because so few of the latter exist. A. R. Rahin, its director, is an American-educated leader in Afghan library affairs. In the past two decades this library has

had several foreign advisors, all American, and most notably Neva White, 1959-66, and Robert Bruce, 1967-8. Also, there are small collections in the Faculties of Law, Letters, Economics, Theology, and Medicine, but none with professional supervision.

Several libraries exist in other educational institutions. The new Russian-sponsored technical university library may become important in future years, and its development and organization will be interesting to watch, but students have been hesitant about enrolling in this institution. Recently, the Higher Teachers College Library, related to Kabul University, has been expanded and modernized by H. V. Conny and Edward Reid-Smith, UNESCO experts. Now, it is the only wholly open shelf government library in Afghanistan. The Afghan Institute of Technology and Vocational Agriculture School Libraries should be mentioned also.

Several government ministry libraries exist. The Ministry of Education Library, with 85000 volumes, is certainly the largest, but all are without professional direction. Another large one is the Press Department Library with 40,000 volumes which has been proposed as the national library. It has books in Persian and Pushtu and a large collection of European materials about Afghanistan. The Kabul Museum, the Royal Palace with an illuminated manuscript collection, the Womans Welfare Society, and the National Bank have small and little used libraries. There are two international libraries worth mentioning, the UN Information Centre and the WHO Library in the Institute of Public Health. Apparently, Afghanistan has no corporate libraries and one of the dozen or so special libraries provides technical information service.

Bahrain.— With its development centered around the capital, Manama, among the Arabian Gulf sheikdoms, the island of Bahrain is second to Kuwait in library development.

The Gulf Technical Junior College has a small but growing library on its own campus. Though it is not as ambitious as the Aramco Library in nearby Dhahran, Saudi

Arabia, the Bahrain Petroleum Company (BAPCO) Library of 10000 volumes at Awali has several sections of technical material for the company's staff members working on special projects, in what is otherwise an attractive small town public library. This is the major surprise of Bahrain, a modern, attractive air-conditioned public library with recreation and Arabian Gulf collections, also. The only medical collection is the 600 book and 300 periodical volume Bahrain Hospital Library which has a small reading room. Its director, Dr. G. Inglott, provides reference service and is much interested in building up his library. The small Department of Education Library and the Uroba Club Library complete the special libraries available, and the small Teachers Training College Library completes the academic libraries available.

The British Council has the busiest public library in Bahrain with a circulation of 50 volumes a day. Also, it is helpful to other Bahrain libraries in building their English language collections. The Bahrain Public Library headquarters in Manama contains 30000 volumes, half in English and half in Arabic. It has a busy reading room of magazines and newspapers, a childrens room, womens reading room, book stack room, and magazine stack room. Several small air-conditioned public library branches exist in other towns, also.

Cyprus.— In several ways somewhat apart from this general area is the Greek and Turkish island state of Cyprus, European in many ways but located South of Turkey and West of Syria. Its special libraries tend to be small, historical, religious, and government supported. The Ministry of Agriculture operates two libraries in Nicosia, one for the Ministry proper, having both forestry and agriculture material among its 4000 volumes, and another of the same size serving the suburban research institute. There are small collections in several churches, the most noteworthy among them the 5000 volume historical collection in the Archbishops Palace, the manuscript

collection of Sultan Mahmoud, and the Phaneromeni Library of 30000 volumes. A small historical and cultural collection is available in the Cyprus Research Center, and a larger one of 12000 archeological volumes and slides is housed in the attractive Library of the Cyprus Museum, a prime research collection.[3] There is no strong collection in science or technology and no large industry on the island.

Several other small libraries may be useful to the researcher, and they include the 18000 volume Teachers College Library, C. D. Stephanou, Librarian, the 30000 volume Ministry of Education Public Library and the surprising 36000 volume Pancyprian High School Severios Library in Nicosia, largest on the island. These libraries are supplemented by the popular collections in the British, American, French and German Cultural Centres. Soon, a new National Library will be built to form the leading reference collection in prosperous and modern Cyprus.

The Gulf States.— The Arab inhabitants living in the Persian Gulf States on the Southern Arabic Peninsula, the romantic Barbary Coast of pirate fame, have some service already and are developing library rapidly.

Peninsular Qatar, hot, arid and humid, has a library in each one of its 72 elementary and secondary schools. Also, it has small recreational collections in the Shell and Qatar Petroleum Companies and in several Arabic clubs. Largest is the Doha Public Library, with 35000 volumes in the Latin and Arabic languages, its own library, a manuscript collection, reading room and closed stacks. There is one special manuscript library at the Rulers Palace and a small library at the Teachers Training Institute.

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[3] C. D. Stephanou, "Libraries in Cyprus" Cyprus Today VIII (March, 1969), pp.90-2.

Dubai, a sandy desert oasis with its own bay, has no special library, but several small public libraries provide service. The Dubai Public Library is the largest of them with English and Arabic collections totalling 8000 volumes, an outdoor movie theatre, reading room, stacks, bindery, and an office for the professional librarian, all in its own building. The British Council has started a lending library as has the British Commercial Office. The Kuwait State Office and the Qatar State Office have small, attractive Arabic reference collections of material particularly useful to local teachers. Small libraries at the British, American and British Trade Schools, and at several Arabic high schools complete the library world in this new and booming Trucial State.

Yemen, in the southwest corner of the Arabian Peninsula, with the largest population in this area, has the Islamic University Library in Taiz, and the Great Mosque Library in Sana'a, but apparently little else. Illiteracy is high here, perhaps 90%.

Southern Yemen, the former British colony of Aden, has several small public libraries, notably the Miswat Library with 25000 volumes in English and Arabic, the Traveling Library with 10000 volumes, and the Teachers Club Library. The only special library of record is the new small Ministry of Health Library, though other small Ministry libraries may exist there also. Apparently, there are no colleges in Southern Yemen. Little is known about libraries in Oman and the other small, wealthy Trucial sheikdoms. Probably a few small public and school libraries exist, perhaps started by foreigners, and the Royal Air Force operates a base recreational library in Sharjah. Until very recently, Oman has refused admission to foreigners and still has no hotels. All of the sheikdoms have smaller populations and more primitive facilities than Dubai, so are probably in an even earlier phase of library development.

Iran.-- Currently, Iran is enjoying an era of strong economic and educational growth as well as political stability, and modern library service has become available in numerous special libraries and information centers. Four petroleum company libraries provide more than usual service. The Oil Consortium Geology Library in Tehran uses computer print-outs to keep an index of company reports useful for reference service. The Oil Consortium's Economics Library indexes by UDC technical reports and clippings in an effort to prepare a useful vertical file collection. The largest, the National Iranian Oil Company Library, Evelyn Vartani, Librarian, has 24,000 volumes. It offers to engineers and business managers personal reference service and literature searches and announces new acquisitions each month to the entire Company. A surprise is the NIOC Technical Information Section under M. Zarrin which maintains American Petroleum Institute computer tapes and abstract services. Literature searches are performed on the tapes as well as on abstract cards. Also, Mr. Zarrin has a peek-a-boo system on which Company reports are indexed, a Xerox photocopier, a collection of Company and foreign technical reports, and a book and journal library. Certainly, his is one of the most modern automated information centers in all of West Asia and deserves more fame than it has achieved. It uses the methodology of tomorrow to solve the problems of today.

Tehran has two other documentation centers. The Centre Francais de Documentation Technique, a French government enterprise, enables business and professional men to study current copies of French periodicals and utilizes the services of a French industrial consultant. Also, it presents a lecture series on French life and industry. The national science and social science center, the Iranian Documentation Centre, was organized two years ago and is headed by Ali Sinani. This center offers the full range of documentation services and is building a large book and serial collection. It will develop its own computer facilities to bring rapid and comprehensive service to Iranian researchers and professors and has already started to key punch bibliographic data. As a resource center, Iranidoc will supplment other

research libraries. Its future role in Iranian information service should be one of great importance. The Centre provides literature searches, reference service, photocopies, browsing and circulation service. Its reference staff totals fourteen and 4200 serial titles are received.

Six Iranian medical libraries deserve to be mentioned. The University of Tehran School of Public Health Library publishes a monthly acquisitions list, conducts literature searches, obtains photocopies and translations on request. Its collection of index and abstract services is especially comprehensive. The Pasteur Institute Library has a beautiful reading room, a collection of 5,000 bound periodicals and a good reprint collection. The recently remodeled University of Tehran Faculty of Medicine Library, Nasrin Tajadod, Librarian, with 30,000 current volumes, and the University of Tehran Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Library, D. Afnam, Librarian, have useful collections. The Razi Institute Library in its own separate building in Hassarak services the Laboratory's researchers and pharmaceutical chemists guiding vaccine production. The best of the six, the busy Pahlavi University Medical Library in Shiraz, Barbara Newton, Acting Librarian, supports an active medical research program with 45,000 volumes.

The Parliament and National Libraries in Tehran offer minimal service but contain relatively large book collections— about 100,000 volumes apiece--and receive some use. At the Senate, a Technical Information Office indexes legislation and provides reference service. Also, Tehran has a good bank Library with 25,000 volumes at the Central Bank; its two professionals have a major recataloging project underway. Another economics library at the Ministry of Economy Research Center for Trade and Industrial Development, Lily Kamgar Parsi, Librarian, answers staff members reference questions and conducts literature searches in its new quarters. The Malek Library and the Pahlavi Library are major collections of Iranian manuscripts and historical books, and the Holy Shrine Library in Mashad

contains much valuable religious material.

Among other technical libraries, the Teachers Training College Mathematics Education Library, A. Mirzaloh, Librarian, the Iranian Geological Survey, and the Pahlavi University Faculty of Engineering Library, H. Frooman, Librarian, are small but well organized and distinctive, all three having open shelves and large reading rooms. Other University of Tehran branches deserving special mention for their quality are those serving the Centre for International Affairs, Shahla Sepehri, Librarian, with 12,000 volumes and two professional librarians, a model for other libraries; the Faculty of Education, with 10,000 volumes; and the Faculty of Business and Public Administration, Mrs. Adagh Sanei, Librarian, established fifteen years ago, and now having 10,000 volumes.

Finally, the Department of Library Science, Faculty of Education, University of Tehran, Farkhondeh Saidi, Acting Chairman, offers a Masters Degree curriculum. In this program, there is a required course in information science, a course in special librarianship, and the opportunity to prepare a research report and carry out an internship in these areas. Many of the vacancies filled by graduates are in ministry special libraries or in the Iranian Documentation Centre. Allitional library schools are operated by the International School, Tehran, and Tabriz University.

Iraq.— Although unstable politically, Iraq has invested some of its oil income in education, and libraries are progressing there.[4] Modern special library service is available to the National Oil Company's petroleum engineers in Baghdad. The Nuclear Research Center Library provides useful library service, also,

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[4] Srivastava, A.P., Education for Library Science and Documentation in Iraq, Paris, UNESCO, 1969.

and hopes to add documentation services.[5] Baghdad has an Iraq Museum Library (38,000 volumes); National History Museum Library with 16,000 volumes, Hamid Salaman, Librarian; Institute of Fine Arts Library; American School of Oriental Research Library; and a small National Library (36,000 volumes), with depository privileges but a book budget of only $500 per year. Mosul in the North has a Museum Library and a College of Medicine Library. Altogether, Iraq has about 30 ministry libraries, 30 special industrial, and 50 academic libraries.

The depository University of Baghdad Central Library, Husham Al-Chawaf, Director, is the largest in Iraq, about 115,000 volumes, and probably the most influential, even though only a decade old. In 1967-8 its book budget was $70,000. There are also libraries of some size in many of the University's Colleges: The College of Arts (32,000 volumes), Science (one of Iraq's strongest libraries which spent $84,000 on materials in 1967-8), Economics, Political Science, Law, Medicine (60,000 volumes), Education (30,000 volumes), Agriculture (12,000 volumes), Veterinary Medicine, and the Arid Zone Research Institute. Several of these libraries spent $10,000 to $20,000 for books in 1967-8.

The University offered a six month UNESCO library education course in the Winter and Spring of 1968, and has recently opened an Institute to educate librarians and documentalists for modern government service.

Israel.-- Israel has a strong education and library development and [illegible] the highest standard of living among West Asian nations. Only a few of its many impressive libraries can be covered here. In Haifa, at the Technion--Israel Institute of Technology the Library has been organized to facilitate literature searching and use. The staff assists with literature searches, but no special documentation

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[5] Personal communication from G. A. Derwish, Director, Nuclear Research Centre, Baghdad, September 16, 1968.

service exists. The Library contains 100000 volumes and 4,000 current periodical titles. The Haifa Public Library keeps a special card file of current Hebrew periodical material, an unusual documentation service, but needed, since there is no national periodical index.

In Jerusalem, the Kneset Library with its Chagall frescos, its four tiers and 50,000 volumes, is a showplace for visitors. Parliament members are provided special information service; material pertaining to subjects under debate is collected for their scrutiny by Librarian Shmuel Wasserman. The large 1.6 million volume Hebrew University and National Library has one of the largest scientific and technical collections in west Asia but offers no documentation service.

The Weizmann Institute of Science Library at Rehovoth is decentralized but totals 48,000 volumes, part of them in its central library, Alma Rosenhack, Librarian. Its interlibrary loan service is quite active and averages 18 volumes per day. The library publishes a list of its 1,700 periodical subscriptions, and Xerox photocopy service is available. The Wix Library is open 17 hours per day, houses all material on open shelves, and provides very comfortable facilities for its researchers.

Three Hebrew University branch libraries are excellent, those at the Law, Agriculture and Medical Faculties, each with over 50,000 volumes and large serial subscription lists, among the best in all of Asia. The Gulbenkian Library, 50,000 volumes, Jerusalem, a large Armenian research library, is outstanding in its field.

Many other Israel special libraries are worth mentioning, and here are a few of them:

Beit Degan

Israel Meteorological Service
Kimran Veterinary Institute.

Haifa

Israel Ceramic and Silicate Institute
Israel Mining Industries Institute for Research and Development
Sea Fisheries Research Station.

Jerusalem

Atomic Energy Commission (20,000 volumes)
Hydrological Service
Institute for Fibres and Forest Products Research
Israel Geological Survey
Supreme Court Library.

Tel-Aviv

Central Music Library (42,000 volumes)
Israel Institute of Packaging and Industrial Design
Israel Institute of Petroleum
Israel Institute of Productivity
Israel Standards Institute.

Elsewhere

Fish Culture Research Station at Dor
Israel Institute for Biological Research, Nesaion
Laboratory for Fish Diseases at Nir David
Locust Research Laboratory at Yafo
Neger Institute for Arid Zone Research, Beer Sheva
Soil Erosion Research Station at Emeg Hefer

The leading documentation center is the Center for Scientific and Technological Information, Tel-Aviv, established in 1961. Like those in Pakistan, Turkey, and India (PANSDOC, TURDOC, and INSDOC), this center is a national government agency providing high grade reference service to ministry and industrial scientists and engineers. Its leaders are Carl Karen and Lydia Vilentchuck, both former engineers. CSTI complies and publishes several lists and directories:

Directory of Special Libraries
List of Scientific and Technical Associations and Institutes
Directory of Serials Published in Israel
Union List of Serials in Israel Libraries
Directory of Current Research in Israel

The Center also publishes the following periodicals:

Monthly Contents Pages in Data Processing, Ceramics and Silicates, and Electronics
Semi-annual Calendar of Forthcoming Scientific Events
Desalination Abstracts, quarterly.

Thirty people are employed as literature searchers, abstractors, indexers, and editors. Their literature procurement service will obtain a photocopy in an Israeli or foreign library, absorb the labor cost, and assess the scientists only the photocopy and postal charges. A fee is charged for literature searches and state-of-the-art studies made by canvassing Israeli libraries. In addition, some searches are being made on a computer in cooperation with the Institute for Scientific Information, Philadelphia. The volume of CSTI business is about 20 requests per day.

Courses in special librarianship and information science are given in three Israeli locations, the richest such offering in west Asia. At the Graduate Library School, Hebrew University, three courses are given in a Diploma program otherwise oriented toward the humanities. The School's departmental library contains a good collection of material in these fields. CSTI employs an American information scientist, such as Arthur Elias or Isaac Welt, for a six week series of lectures each year, and cooperates with the Weizmann Institute and the Ministry of Labor in sponsoring a one year diploma curriculum in information science. This program aims to provide 10-15 educated employees each year for industrial information centers. A course in special librarianship is given each year at the Technion Research and Development Foundation, Tel-Aviv. In addition, there is an Israel Society of Special Libraries and Information Centers.[6,7]

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[6] Directory of Special Libraries in Israel. 2nd edition, Tel-Aviv, Center for Scientific and Technical Information, 1964.

[7] National Council for Research and Development, Scientific Research in Israel, Tel-Aviv, 1968.

Jordan.— Small, arid Jordan has no oil money and is fighting a war, but its cultural level is relatively high. There is a strong growth in the library movement there—several persons are attending library school abroad, new libraries are being established, even documentation centers, and the small Jordanian Library Association seems to be ~~the best~~ more vigorous ~~in near east~~.

Two of the small new libraries have been acting like documentation centers. The Royal Scientific Society, Mahmoud Item, Librarian, and the National Resources Library, Lutfi Barakat, previous Director, have started to collect technical material, provide literature search and bibliographic services. Hopefully, the former will grow into the national scientific documentation center. The Scientific Research Council has shown some interest in bibliographic work, also.

The Central Bank Library is one of the handsomest in Jordan with a relatively large collection, 8000 volumes. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Library is one of the better special libraries, but it, too, lost its Librarian recently. The Al-Husseir College of Agriculture has a Library in Tullarin, and the University campus Agricultural Research Institute has some useful foreign and local materials.

There is a 25,000 volume Teachers College Library for men which provides good service, Nimr Ibrahim, Librarian, and a small UNRWA Teachers Institute Library.

Amman has both a national library for the blind and ~~also~~ a new television station library. The bar association and the medical association have started libraries and several hospitals have useful medical collections. There is a small phosphate company library and a small library in the Arab Bank. The Parliament Library is very small, but other ministries have started libraries which will be useful eventually. The present University of Jordan Library, in Amman, is crowded, but a new building is being constructed near the campus entrance. The Library has 65,000 volumes and offers closed stack service. Kamil Asali is the Librarian and Farouk Mansour the Assistant Librarian. The Ford Foundation has assisted with scholarships to American library schools, book money, and advisor.

As can be expected in a city where special library service is only beginning to develop, helpful ~~library~~ service is being provided by the British Council and the Amman Public Library. Workshop library instruction is offered by the Ministry of Education and the Jordanian Library Association.

Kuwait. -- A wealthy country, Kuwait has a modern, colorful and sunbaked appearance. Its government is building a welfare state, and there is strong educational leadership, primarily from imported Egyptians. Almost half of its 700,000 population is composed of foreigners drawn there by the modern standard of living and by good salaries. Its university library is pre-eminent in the nation and contains 150,000 volumes (including manuscripts), Ahmad Badr, Advisor, and Sulaiman Kalandar, Chief Librarian. The Library is growing rapidly under the supervision of Cairo-educated administrators. Duplicate social science and science reading room facilities exist for men and for women students, air-conditioned, carpeted, and containing duplicates of most titles. In addition, a main reading room serves both sexes in providing reference, humanities and serial materials. The materials budget is $330,000 and the attempt is being made to create a university library in a hurry. The Documentation Section, led by a Pansdoc staff member on loan, is compiling bibliographies on Kuwait interests, such as petroleum, desalination, arid land agriculture, and fishing. Much material is arriving on these subjects from foreign documentation centers, and all of it is available to off campus users. Microfilm camera equipment is available in the reprography section, and there is ~~also~~ an extensive audio-visual center, This is one of the fastest growing libraries in West Asia and is one of many remarkable features of this country.

Kuwait has several kinds of special libraries, all quite small and new. The Kuwait Institute of Scientific Research has a documentaist, Heshmat Romani, who has started a documentation center. In the same building is the Kuwait Institute of

Economic and Social Planning of the Middle East which has had UN assistance in developing a small documentation center, 5000 volumes. The Kuwait National Petroleum Company and the Kuwait Oil Company, Ltd., have recently started technical libraries, and there are small libraries in several ministries, such as the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Guidance and News. The British Council operates a small public library to supplement the fast-growing Kuwait City Public Library. Between the two Kuwait Institutes, the Kuwait University Library, and the two small oil company libraries, surely a national documentation center will be started in the next few years.

Lebanon.— Beirut is a West Asian cultural center with many international agency branch offices, historically a French orientation, and a high educational level. The 300,000 volume American University Jafit Library intends, when funds permit, to offer documentation service to students and faculty which will cover educational reports and curricular materials. Meanwhile, the UNRWA Institute of Education Library is being organized to serve its training staff. There is an Arab States Center for Administration and Training in Educational Planning Library, a UNESCO project, which publishes special bibliographies of its material.

The Neat East School of Theology Library is one of the best organized religious libraries in West Asia. It has 30,000 volumes, 100 current serial titles, and uses the Union Theological Seminary classification system. The library is located in an Arab garden and the librarian's apartment is ~~located~~ just above the library. The University has a rich Asiatic history and culture collection. Also, in the humanities area, the French Institute of Archeology provides a fine 20000 volume collection and a quaint reading room with books eleven shelves high. Libraries exist in the German and Italian Cultural Centers near the American University, also.

Several other small centers should be mentioned. The Beirut Chamber of Commerce and Industry has recently been modernized and offers documentation services as does the

French Documentation Centre providing recent French serial and reference material from a charming bungalow.[7] The only west Asian French language Law Library, 25,000 volumes, is available at St. Joseph's University. Two UN collections exist, one being the Economic and Social Division Collection and the other being the UN Information Center. Each provides a document and report collection of information and statistics on important regional UN problems. Lebanon has several government ministry libraries including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Library, Jean Malha, Librarian, as well as the National Library of 100,000 volumes, recently reorganized under the Swiss UNESCO librarian, A. Willhelmin.

The American University Medical Library has 55,000 volumes, one of the largest in West Asia, for which new housing is planned. Louise Arriens is the librarian. Another medical library services the St. Joseph University Medical School, with 20,000 volumes. This library, like the other St. Joseph's branches, depends on the central university library for administrative and processing services. Generally, St. Joseph's University branch libraries contain no professional librarians, open shelves, circulating books, typed or printed card catalogs.

Two Arab libraries serve separate organizations researching and publishing information on the Palestine problem. The Institute for Palestine Studies has a 6000 volume research library, and the Palestine Liberation Organization has a large clipping file and an index of pamphlets, maps, and periodical articles. In engineering, there is the American University Engineering branch library, the St. Joseph's University School of Engineering Library, and the Middle East Airlines collection of micro-filmed engineering specifications for use in controlling aircraft maintenance. Also, the Lebanese Industrial Research Service contains a collection of foreign standards. In agriculture, there is an AUB branch library plus an FAO Animal Health Institute Library.

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7 Chonez, A. Liban Centre National de Documentation Pour le Development. Paris, UNESCO, 1968.

Pakistan .— Pakistan is a poor but religious state with many small libraries and capable librarians. In Karachi, personal, high-grade reference service is made available to a small clientele from the National Institute for Public Administration Library's collection, Mohammid Arifuddin, Librarian. Another small library, 15,000 volumes, is in the Jinnah Post-Graduate Medical Centre in Karachi, Zakiuddin Ahmad, Libra ian. Its collection may not be large, but the library provides modern microfilm service for medical material. Also in Karachi are two large and excellent bank libraries. The State Bank Library performs literature searches and has a book collection of 30,000 volumes. The National Bank Library has many new books and is furnished with private carrels. Both libraries have large budgets, carpeted floors, liberal import licenses and growing collections open to students, employees, and researchers. Syed Riazuddin and Jameelunnisa Ahmad are the two librarians.

The Pakistan Atomic Energy Center in Lahore provides good library facilities for researchers and operates as a technical information center with numerous bibliographies and union lists compiled. The Pakistan Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Library in Karachi holds chemical research material. The Forestry Institute in Peshawar has a small and attractive library, and there are also Irrigation Research and Cotton Research Libraries in Pakistan.

Pansdoc is the largest and oldest documentation center in West Asia with 125 employees and 14 years of experience. Also, it has the greatest amount of business, about 75 requests for service per day. It is located in two houses in residental Karachi and plans eventually to move to new quarters in the capital city, Islamabad. Pansdoc employs two full-time and several part-time translators putting French, German and Russian into English. It is classified by UDC and has started a data processing program with Colombo Plan assistance. Pansdoc procures photocopies or microfilm of material for scientists from libraries in Pakistan and abroad. In some

cases it merely finds the material, but in others the material is obtained and then filmed in Pansdoc's own laboratory. Their studio now has enough film to fill a fair percentage of requests. The Pansdoc print shop serves the entire Research Council. Through offset, varityper, and photographic equipment, it produces several comprehensive bibliographies, translations, and other reports each year, as well as the necessary art work. To a specialist, Pansdoc can supply a list of organizations working in his field. Union lists of material are maintained for the entire country and small service branches are located in Dacca and Lahore. A. R. Mohajir, the Director, is well known in his field and deserves much credit for Pansdoc's success. The remainder of the staff is made up of library school and science graduates. Bibliographies in English, microfilms, photocopies, translations and the Pakistan Science Abstracts are supplied for a nominal fee.

The Karachi University Department of Library Science offers one course in information science and two in special librarianship. And finally, there is a Pakistan Special Librarians Association.

Saudi Arabia.— A religious country, large in area but small in population, wealthy Saudi Arabia is mostly desert. It is modernizing its cities and improving education and libraries, too. Probably the most modern special library service is offered at the Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco) Central Technical Library in Dhahran. This library of 40,000 volumes has had several foreign chief librarians in the course of its history. Mecca has large and valuable Arabic manuscript libraries. A special library exists at the General Directorate of the Press in Jeddah, and several other government ministries are developing libraries to assist their work, also.

Academic libraries exist at Islamic University in Medina and the University of Riyadh, 65,000 volumes, Mohammed Al-Solai, Librarian. The King Abdul Aziz University Library at Jeddah, a private institution, is developing its new library rapidly.

Recently, Adil Usmani of Karachi has been the advisor to this most modern of Saudi Arabia's academic libraries. Larger and older, yet still modern, is the University of Petroleum Library at Dhahran, which has recently sought a foreign librarian. Another petroleum college exists at Riyadh. The Higher Institute of Technology at Riyadh has started a documentation center and offered library science workshops.

Syrian Arab Republic.— Syria has a colorful religious history, a desert climate, and has recently begun to develop modern libraries. The Damascus University Library has 105,000 volumes, and Anwar Rifai is the Chief Librarian. There are thirty faculty libraries in this large university, and they provide some of Syria's best special library service. The University in Alleppo is developing departmental library services, also. The National Library, Dr. Izzat Hassan, Director, and Mrs. Sima el-Mahassini, Chief Librarian, has 60,000 volumes and a manuscript collection. Its primary task is to serve as the Damascus Public Library. Unfortunately, it is in no condition to provide leadership for the nation's libraries. There are several small government ministry libraries, mostly supervised by clerks, the Ministry of Culture, National Television Station, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, being examples.

There exists a Center for Study and Documentation in Economics and Political Science and a Bureau des Documentation Syriennes et Arab in the Directorate of Archeology at Damascus. The Library of the French Institute for Arab Study is supported by the University of Paris and contains 10,000 useful and well organized volumes. Also, the League for Arabic Languages has a library just off a charming courtyard in the bazaar area. This library contains 20,000 volumes useful in studying and expanding the language, A. Jundi, Librarian. It can be assumed that Syria's future library development will include some influence from USSR librarianship. Already, the serial and book collections of the University show this influence, and staff members are being sent there to study librarianship.

Turkey.— Turkey is a large country of great contrasts, many historical cities, and a strong library development. One of Ankara's most attractive buildings belongs to the Turkish Historical Society wherein 50,000 volumes are available. Literature searches are made frequently by Librarian Mahin Ehrin. Through inter-library loans, authors are given bibliographic assistance. Another Ankara center is the Union Chambers of Commerce Library with its 12,000 volume collection, pleasant setting, and special indexing services for patrons; Gulten Kayaalp is Librarian. Two other Ankara special libraries are the National Library, Mujgan Cunbur, Librarian and the Parliament Library, Nazmi Coskuntor, Librarian, large and relatively conservative governmental book collections. Both have microfilming projects to preserve the past, but neither has developed its service aspects extensively.

In Istanbul, there is a medical school library, Istanbul University Medical School, a technical university library, Istanbul Technical College, a manuscript library, The Suleymaniye, and a state library, The Bayazit, near a large bazaar. The Suleymaniye is a large manuscript collection of great interest to West Asian historians, which is housed in a former Madresay, Halit Dener, Librarian. The Bayazit is also large and is heavily used by students because of its reading room facilities and copyright deposit collection. Several good archeological libraries exist in Turkey, and even the spectacular Topkapi Palace has a library.

As for information center service in Turkey, the Atomic Energy Center in Ankara receives international atomic documentation material and special abstracting and indexing services. The Hacettepe University Population Research Information Center provides special indexing, abstracting, and photocopy services, maintains card files, and provides translation service for its subsidized research staff members. It has two full-time staff members and represents modern technical information service given in a university setting.

Turkey has its Turdoc like Iran has its Irandoc, again a national scientific and technical information center, in Ankara. Turdoc is five years old and has a dozen indexers and abstractors. It publishes six abstracting journals in English on Turkish scientific material, its Key to Turkish Science series, a creditable publication program for a young organization. Literature searches, photocopy and microfilm services are provided, and Turdoc is building up its files in preparation for well planned, ambitious and comprehensive literature service. Turdoc has duplication and photographic equipment useful in publication, also. This Center must expand its physical facilities before it can add enough staff to provide for a large volume of business from researchers, however. Plans have been made for thesaurus construction and for work with data processing equipment. The Center was established by A. L. Gardner, UNESCO Documentation Expert, and is now headed by Kâsmet Bornin, chemist ~~Tevfik Olgun, graduate veterinary medical physician~~ and former Turdoc abstractor. There is a Research Council Library on the lower floor of Turdoc's building with a collection ~~consisting primarily~~ of reference sets and 500 current scientific and technical serials.

A small Turkish Special Librarians Association has been started, and library schools exist in Ankara and Istanbul. Both schools prepare undergraduate majors, some of whom enter special librarianship.

U.A.R.— The United Arab Republic is one of the richest library countries in Asia and Africa. It is the cultural and political leader of the Arab world which extends across most of North Africa and West Asia.

The new National Library, with 500,000 volumes, and R. E. Sheniti as both Deputy Minister and its Director, occupies a handsome white stone building on a commanding site. It is the leading library in the U.A.R. and has a staff of several hundred professional librarians. Its new site should provide an impressive home for many years. Several ministries have sizeable collections and professional

librarians though their organization and housing may be inferior. Examples are the Ministry of Education with 60,000 volumes, the Ministry of Justice with 50,000 volumes, the Ministry of Agriculture with 25,000 volumes, and the Geological Survey with 15,000 volumes. Also, there is a National Assembly library of some size.

In the sciences, many useful collections exist, although their availability for circulation use to outsiders and the ease of using them may leave something to be desired. Medical libraries include those at the Cairo and Alexandria Universities, and the Institute of Medical Research at Alexandria. However, the best medical library in Cairo, surprisingly enough, is American, the U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit, near the Abassia Fever Hospital. Its 15,000 volumes are strong in retrospective serial files. Worth mentioning are two biological collections, those of the Entomological Society in Cairo, 23,000 volumes, and the Botany Department, Cairo University, the latter collected by gift from Sweden by a devoted faculty member. The Geographical Society Library must be included, with 29,000 volumes, the largest in its field in West Asia. The Institute of Hydrobiology in Alexandira has a 15,000 volume collection in fish and fisheries. Useful libraries exist at the Egyptian Academy of Science, and the Atomic Energy Organization, and the Egyptian Desert Institute, also.

Several libraries and their librarians deserve special mention here. The best special library seen in Egypt was that of the Arab world's leading newspaper, the Al-Ahram, Mohammed Hamidy, the energetic librarian. In a handsome, new and air-conditioned building, it is surely the best newspaper library in West Asia. Best organized is the WHO Library of Farida Youssef in Alexandria, providing medical library service. It is a gem. Another well organized library, also attractive, was that of the Arab League in Cairo, emphasizing social science materials and Arab affairs. Law school collections supplement the Ministry of Justice Library at

Cairo University and Alexandria University, the latter relatively well organized. The Bank of Egypt also has a Library, 6,000 volumes. Another social science center with a large collection, 25,000 volumes, and a documentation center approach, is that of Cairo's Institute of National Planning, directed by A. Eli. Their publication series is worth securing by exchange.

There are at least two strong foreign archeological collections, those of the French and the Germans, but the collections in the Egyptian and Coptic Museums and the Institute of Egypt Library, 20,000 volumes, must be considered, also. The Food and Agriculture Organization and the United Nations maintain collections of their documents, here as elsewhere, useful for many researchers. On the Cairo and Alexandria campuses as well as those of Ain Shams, there are Faculty libraries in law, science, letters, engineering, agriculture and commerce which can be useful to business and industry. The university collections are available for reference use but probably not for circulation to persons outside the campus.

The Greek Patriarchiate Library in Alexandria is useful in its field, and another religion Orthodox and philosophy collection at the Dominican Center for Oriental Studies, Father Anawaty, in charge, is a quiet oasis of research in noisy Cairo.

No doubt the leading Egyptian information center is the National Information and Documentation Center (NIDOC) started in Cairo with UNESCO assistance, Ahmad Kabesh, Director. This center has a large staff and indexes and abstracts many Arab language scientific publications, though recently it has had to concentrate increasingly on UAR material. Its organization resembles that of other UNESCO-assisted documentation centers, and it is located in the National Research Center, Ministry of Scientific Research. NIDOC contains 50,000 volumes of material. Bibliographies are prepared in English and French, while photocopies and microfilm are supplied from any country. Eight languages are translated and The monthly Abstracts

of Scientific and Technical Papers is published.

Apparently the only other organization calling itself a documentation center is found at the Ministry of Education, a UNESCO-sponsored organization supplementing the Ministry's Library. This Center publishes numerous reports of Arab world education, translates useful material, and keeps on its shelves much helpful material, all in crowded, slum-like physical conditions.

The University of Cairo Department of Library Science, the leading Arab library school, teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses useful to special librarians and in recent years has given a course in documentation. NIDOC offers three and four week seminars on documentation, in French and English, to university graduates. Also, there is an Egyptian Association of Archives and Librarianship which includes special librarians.

Conclusion.— Special libraries and information centers are well represented in an area of the world generally considered to be library-poor. Several examples exist of the most modern automated reference service, and every possible current method of providing service is represented in practice. Five examples of the most up-to-date and intensive reference service are shown in the large documentation centers, and at least one of them is well known in the Western world for its services. The future looks promising, for undoubtedly special libraries and information centers will increase and improve as industry expands, government ministries demand better service, and publication programs enlarge. More formal instruction is needed, but several countries have made a start toward a special library or information science curriculum, with Israel leading the way.

It should be noted that modern service has not been restricted to the scientific and technical fields, but in certain countries has been incorporated into banking and historical libraries, also. The extention of the modern information service philosophy, which seeks maximum benefits from a collection of material, is more important than the

spread of libraries. Although the commercial indexing and abstracting services published in these countries may not be comparable in all ways to those in France and the United States, they cover countries not otherwise included in the world's bibliographic services. In the entire area, five countries lead the way: UAR, Israel, Turkey, Pakistan, and Iran. The documentation centers give the best service, with Pansdoc, Nidoc, and Tel-Aviv ahead of Turdoc and Irandoc. The National Iranian Oil Company Technical Information Section is outstanding, also.

By subject areas, which are the strongest West Asian special libraries? The Central Bank in both Karachi and Tehran and the State Bank in Karachi are the strongest bank libraries. The Al-Ahram Newspaper Library in Cairo is the best of its kind. The strongest geographical library is the Egyptian Geographical Society. The strongest commerce libraries are at Alexandria University and the Union Chambers of Commerce in Ankara. The strongest law libraries are the Kneset Library in Jerusalem, Hebrew University, and Cairo University, with the University of Tehran Centre for International Affairs deserving special mention. The strongest history libraries are the Turkish Historical Society Library in Ankara and the Suleymaniye in Istanbul.

The strongest art and archeological collections are the French archeological libraries in Cairo and Beirut. Strong religious libraries are located at the Near East School of Theology in Beirut and at the Holy Shrine in Mashad, Iran.

The three best petroleum libraries are in Dhahraan, Saudi Arabia, the National Iranian Oil Company in Tehran, and Zarring's computerized center. The strongest medical library is at Hebrew University with the American University Medical Library at Beirut next, and then the Pahlavi University Medical Library. The WHO Library in Alexandria deserves special mention for its careful organization. Energy Centers in Lahore and Jerusalem are the best of their kind. The strongest agricultural library is the Hebrew University, and the strongest engineering library

is at Cairo University.

The national libraries at Jerusalem, Cairo, and Ankara are the largest. The librarians of all these libraries and documentation centers are among the best in the area with the addition of Arifuddin and Ahmad in Pakistan. The Jordanian Library Association seems ~~not~~ most active.

Since certain agencies in West Asia are now giving good service, it can be suggested that they cooperate more closely and coordinate their activities. If the documentation centers in Ankara, Karachi, Tel-Aviv, Tehran and Cairo could work closely together, each would improve its service by using the data store accumulated by the others. Improved telephone and telex service between these centers would be required, and eventually, facsimile transmission and computer on-line service to each other and to European and Asian centers. With such co-operation, subject concentration for each center and frequent exchange of abstracted material could follow. If such cooperation could be carried out, perhaps it could be extended to the other special libraries in these countries as well as to other West Asian countries.

A start toward such cooperation has been made through the First Southwest Asian Documentation Centre Conference held in Tehran in April 1970, with CENTO sponsorship. This occasion brought together Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey for the first time in pioneering conference. May its cooperative spirit spread and its benefits multiply throughout West Asia!

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